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Distributed Coordinated Active and Reactive Power Control of Wind Farms Based on Model Predictive Control

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Abstract

This paper proposes a distributed coordinated active and reactive power control scheme for wind farms based on the model predictive control (MPC) along with the consensus-based distributed information synchronization and estimation, which can optimally dispatch the active power of wind turbines (WTs) and regulate the voltages within the wind farm. For the active power control, the pitch angle and generator torque of WTs are optimally controlled to alleviate fatigue loads of WTs while tracking the power reference of the wind farm required by system operators. For the reactive power/voltage control, the reactive power outputs of WTs are controlled to mitigate the voltage deviations and simultaneously optimize reactive power sharing. Considering the high R/X ratio of the wind farm collector systems, the impact of active power variations on voltages is taken into account to improve the voltage regulation. The proposed scheme is center-free and only requires sparse communication network. Each WT only exchanges information with its immediate neighbors and the local optimal control problems are solved in parallel, implying good scalability and flexibility for large-scale wind farms. The predictive model of a WT is derived and then the MPC problem is formulated. A wind farm with ten WTs was used to verify the proposed control scheme.

Keywords: active power control, consensus protocol, distributed control, model predictive control, reactive power control, voltage control, wind farm.

Nomenclature

$(*)_0$	measurement at operating point	λ	tip speed ratio
$\Delta(*)$	incremental value of variable	β	auxiliary variable in pitch control
$(\hat{*})^{(i)}$	variables estimated by WT- i	Q_W	reactive power output of WT
$P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}}$	active power reference of WT	$Q_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}}$	reactive power reference of WT
P_g	active power output of WT	$Q_{\text{meas}}^{\text{WT}}$	measured reactive power
ω_r	rotor speed	$Q_{\text{int}}^{\text{WT}}$	auxiliary variable in reactive power control
ω_g, ω_f	generator and filtered speed	V_S	terminal voltage of the grid side converter
$\theta, \theta_{\text{ref}}$	pitch angle and its reference	$i_q, i_{q\text{ref}}$	q-axis current and its reference
T_r	aerodynamics torque	$P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}}$	wind farm power reference
F_t	thrust force	$P_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WF}}$	available power of wind farm
$T_g, T_{g\text{ref}}$	generator torque and its reference	$\bar{P}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}}$	average available power of WTs
T_s	shaft torque	V_{ref}	voltage reference
v_w	effective wind speed	V_{POC}	voltage at the POC
C_p	power efficient	V_W	voltage at WT bus
C_t	thrust efficient	N	number of WTs
H_p	prediction horizon	H_c	control horizon
N_p	prediction step	N_c	control step
T_c	control period	\bar{Q}_W, Q_{W}	reactive power limits of WT

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1. Introduction

Wind energy has been developing rapidly due to the growing concerns over environmental issues around the world. As the wind power penetration level increases, its variability and uncertainty have brought a number of technical and economic challenges for power system operation [1]. Wind farms are required to meet the technical requirements specified in grid codes issued by system operators. With the fast development of modern wind turbine (WT) technologies, the controllability and fast-response capability of wind power are significantly improved. Modern wind farms are able to provide multiple ancillary services such as grid frequency and voltage support [2],[3].

Generally, wind farm control applications may consist of several control objectives including active power dispatch and reactive power/voltage control [4]. Due to the decoupled control loops of active and reactive power of modern WTs, they are often separately designed.

For active power control, several control strategies such as proportional distribution [5]-[6] and proportional-integral (PI) control [7] are easy to be implemented. However, these dispatch methods mainly focus on power reference tracking of the wind farm without considering fatigue loads experienced by the WTs, which have significant impacts on the lifetime of WTs. In recent years, the optimization-based control strategies have been widely studied [8]-[10]. The optimal control problems are formulated as multi-objective optimization problems which can achieve power tracking as well as reduce the fatigue loads of WTs.

For reactive power control of wind farms, the main aim is to maintain the voltage at the point of connection (POC) within the feasible range, which is specified in many grid codes. Several reactive power dispatch strategies based on the proportional distribution and PI controller have been proposed in [4], [10]-[11], which depend on the voltage at the POC and available reactive power capability of WTs while the terminal voltages of WTs are not considered. The optimization-based reactive power/voltage control strategies have also been proposed [12]-[14]. In [12], a hierarchical automatic voltage controller based on the sensitivity method was designed and implemented in a wind power base of northern China. In [13]-[14], the optimal power flow-based control strategies for high-voltage-direct-current (HVDC) connected offshore wind farms were proposed, in which the objectives are to minimize the active power losses of the offshore system.

As a special optimization-based method, model predictive control (MPC) has been widely used in wind power systems both in WT level [15]-[16] and wind farm level [17]-[22]. In [17], a MPC scheme was proposed to balance the wind farm power reference tracking as well as fatigue loads reduction. In [18]-[20], the distributed MPC (D-MPC) schemes were proposed for optimal active power dispatch for wind farms, in which the optimal control problems are solved by the distributed optimization algorithms, however, in which a central unit is also required for WT coordination to track the power reference required by system operators. In [21]-[22], the centralized MPC-based coordinated wind farm voltage control schemes were designed. In [21], the reactive power sources inside a wind farm including WTs, static Var compensators and on-load tap changing transformer are optimally coordinated. In [22], WTs and wind farm side HVDC converter are optimally coordinated.

In the centralized optimization-based voltage control schemes [12]-[14], [17]-[22], the wind farm is modeled as a constrained multiple input and multiple output system whose order drastically grows as the number of WTs increases. As the number of WTs increases, the computation burden of the central controller will be heavy. Moreover, the cost of the communication infrastructures may be quite high for large-scale wind farms. Distributed control is appealing for the wind farm control since a wind farm consists of a number of WTs, which has a high degree autonomy. Besides, the typical R/X ratio of the wind farm collector system is high and consequently voltages are sensitive to variations in active power injections. The conventional active and reactive power control schemes of wind farms were designed in a separated manner, which neglects the impact of active power variations of WTs on system voltages and consequently voltage control performance might not be optimal.

In this context, the main contribution of this paper is a distributed coordinated active and reactive power control design which aims to optimally regulate active and reactive power outputs of WTs in a wind farm. For the active power control, the controllers reduce the fatigue loads of WTs while tracking the wind farm power reference. For the reactive power control, the voltages are regulated and reactive power sharing is optimized. The impact of active power variations on voltages is taken into account to improve the voltage control. The global reference information including the power reference of the wind farm and voltage at the POC is synchronized by a distributed finite-time observer. The total available active power of the wind farm is estimated using a distributed estimator based on the average-consensus protocol.

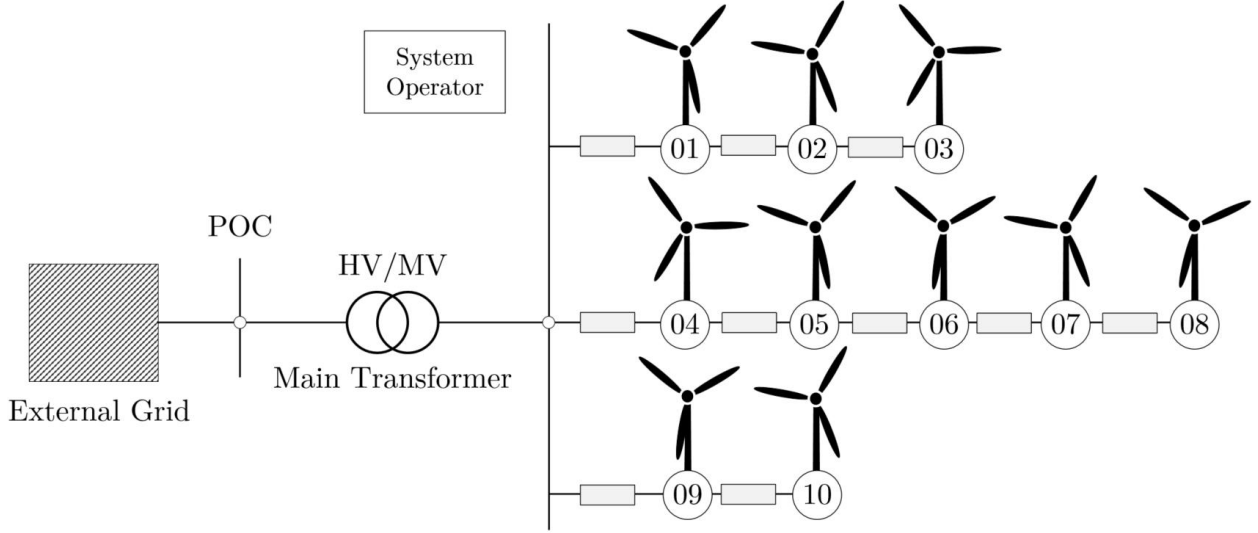


Figure 1: Structure of a wind farm.

Compared with the traditional centralized control, the proposed distributed control scheme has several advantages as follows: 1) Eliminate the requirement of a central controller; 2) Reduce the cost of communication infrastructures (All WTs only exchange information with their immediate neighbors, and when the wind farm is expanded, the newly connected WTs are only required to build the communication link with the neighboring WTs instead of the far central controller); 3) Reduce the computation burden. (the computation in each WT controller is in parallel and the computation burden is less dependent on the number of WTs); 4) Improve the scalability of the wind farm controller.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents an overview of the proposed control scheme. In Section 3, the predictive models of WTs regarding active and reactive power control loops are described. In Section 4, the formulation of the distributed optimal control problem is presented. Simulation results are presented and discussed in Section 5 followed by conclusions.

2. Distributed MPC Based Power Control Scheme Design for Wind Farms

The typical structure of a wind farm is shown in Fig. 1. Each WT is equipped with a distributed WT controller and a sparse, connected communication network is designed for the distributed power control scheme.

The configuration of the proposed distributed coordinated power controller (DCPC) is illustrated in Fig. 2. The exchanged information between the system operator (or wind farm operator) and the leader WT is the wind farm power reference. The information between two neighboring WTs includes the estimated available power of the wind farm, the estimated power reference of wind farm, the estimated voltage at the POC and the predicted active/reactive power outputs. At each control point, each DCPC sends the required information to its immediate neighbors and receives the corresponding information from its neighbors.

The total available power of the wind farm is estimated by the distributed estimator which is executed every few seconds. The global reference information including the wind farm power reference and voltage at the POC are synchronized by the distributed finite-time observer. The sensitivity coefficients of bus voltage with respect to power injections are given to each DCPC. For the sensitivity calculation, one option is to use offline power flow analysis and keep constant, which may lead to significant errors. Another option is updating the sensitivity in every control period, whereas it might lead to heavy computation and communication burden. Thus, considering the operation states cannot dramatically change in a short term, the sensitivity coefficients are updated with low frequency in this study. An analytical sensitivity calculation method first developed for radial distribution networks is adopted in this paper [23]. It is expected that the closed-loop nature of MPC will compensate infrequently updated sensitivity coefficients.

The objective of the D-MPC for wind farms includes two parts: 1) active power dispatch; and 2) reactive power/voltage control. For the active power control, the controller minimizes the fatigue loads of WTs while tracking the power reference of the wind farm required by system operators, which is considered as a soft constraint and explicitly expressed in the

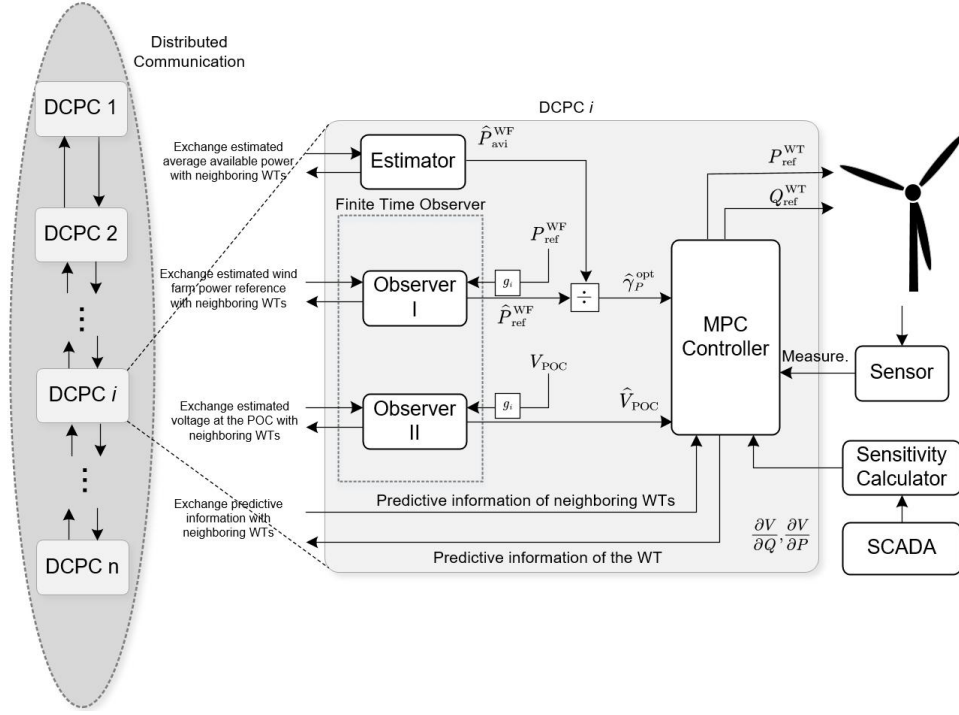


Figure 2: Distributed coordinated active and reactive power control scheme.

objective function. For the reactive power control, the voltages at the POC and WT buses are all taken into consideration. In addition, the fair reactive power sharing is also addressed. To better regulate the voltages, the impact of active power variations on voltages is considered.

3. Predictive Model of a WT

In this section, the incremental state-space models of the WT including active and reactive power control loops are obtained by linearizing the nonlinear WT model at the operating point.

3.1. Active Power Control Loop

Modern WTs can be controlled to operate in the maximum power point tracking (MPPT) mode or a derated mode to track the power reference sent from the DCPC. The power-controlled WT model developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is used to represent a variable speed WT for modeling of the active power control loop. The configuration of a power-controlled WT model is illustrated in Fig. 3 [24].

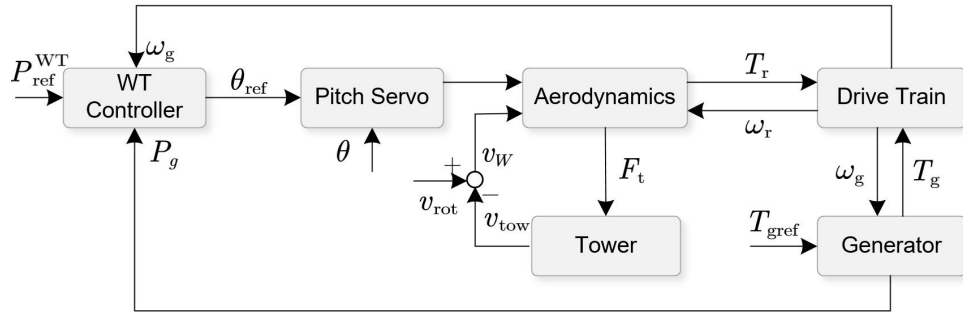


Figure 3: Structure of a power-controlled WT [24].

3.1.1. Modeling

According to Fig. 3, a pitch-controlled WT can be approximately modeled by [8], [24],

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} T_r = \frac{0.5\pi\rho R^2 v_W^3 C_p(\lambda, \theta)}{\omega_r} \\ F_t = 0.5\pi\rho R^2 v_W^2 C_t(\lambda, \theta) \\ \dot{\omega}_r = \frac{1}{J_t} (T_r - \eta T_g) \\ \omega_g = \eta \omega_r \\ J_t = J_r + \eta^2 J_g \\ T_s = \frac{\eta^2 J_g}{J_t} T_r + \frac{\eta J_r}{J_t} T_g \\ T_g \approx T_g^{\text{ref}} \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$

The generator torque and pitch controller can be modeled by [8], [24],

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} T_g^{\text{ref}} = \frac{P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}}}{\mu \omega_f} \\ \dot{\omega}_f = -\frac{1}{\tau_f} \omega_f + \frac{1}{\tau_f} \omega_g \\ \theta_{\text{ref}} = \frac{K_p^\theta}{K_0 + K_1 \theta_{\text{ref}}} (\omega_f - \omega_g^{\text{rated}}) + \frac{K_i^\theta}{K_0 + K_1 \theta_{\text{ref}}} \frac{(\omega_f - \omega_g^{\text{rated}})}{s} \\ \beta = (K_0 + K_1 \theta) \theta \end{array} \right. \quad (2)$$

More details about the pitch-controlled WT can be referred to [8]. The definitions of these variables are presented in the Appendix.

3.1.2. Incremental State-Space Model

The modeling of physical and control systems has been presented above. Based on the linearization of the simplified nonlinear WT model at the operating point, the incremental state-space model can be obtained. Define $\Delta x_p := [\Delta\omega_g, \Delta\omega_f, \Delta\beta]^T$ is the state variable vector, $\Delta y_p := [\Delta T_s, \Delta F_t]^T$ is the output variable vector, and $\Delta u_p := [\Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}}]^T$ is the control input. Based on (1) and (2), the linearized incremental state-space model of the active power control loop can be represented as,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \dot{x}_p &= \mathbf{A}_p \Delta x_p + \mathbf{B}_p \Delta u_p + \mathbf{E}_p \\ \Delta y_p &= \mathbf{C}_p \Delta x_p + \mathbf{D}_p \Delta u_p \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

with

$$\mathbf{A}_p = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\eta}{J_t} \frac{\partial T_r}{\partial \omega_g} & \frac{\eta^2 P_{g0}}{J_t \omega_{f0}^2} & \frac{\eta}{J_t} \frac{\partial T_r}{\partial \beta} \\ \frac{1}{\tau_f} & -\frac{1}{\tau_f} & 0 \\ \frac{K_p^\theta}{\tau_{rmf}} & -\frac{K_p^\theta}{\tau_f} + K_i^\theta & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{B}_p = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\eta^2 P_{g0}}{J_t \omega_{f0}^2} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{C}_p = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\eta^2 J_g}{J_t} \frac{\partial T_r}{\partial \omega_g} & \frac{\eta J_r P_{g0}}{\mu J_t \omega_{f0}^2} & \frac{\eta^2 J_g}{J_t} \frac{\partial T_r}{\partial \beta} \\ \frac{\partial F_t}{\partial \omega_g} & 0 & \frac{\partial F_t}{\partial \beta} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{D}_p = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\eta J_r}{\mu J_t \omega_{f0}} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{E}_p = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\eta}{J_t} (T_{r0} - \eta T_{g0}) \\ 0 \\ K_i (\omega_{f0} - \omega_g^{\text{rated}}) \end{bmatrix}$$

where the coefficients $\frac{\partial T_r}{\partial \omega_g}$, $\frac{\partial T_r}{\partial \beta}$, $\frac{\partial F_t}{\partial \omega_g}$ and $\frac{\partial F_t}{\partial \beta}$ are derived from the Taylor approximation of T_r and F_t at the operating point. The discrete model can be obtained by discretizing the continuous state-space model (3) with the sampling time $\Delta\tau_s$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x_p(k+1) &= \mathbf{A}_p^d \Delta x_p(k) + \mathbf{B}_p^d \Delta u_p(k) + \mathbf{E}_p^d \\ \Delta y_p(k) &= \mathbf{C}_p^d \Delta x_p(k) + \mathbf{D}_p^d \Delta u_p(k) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{A}_p^d = e^{\mathbf{A}_p \Delta\tau_s}$, $\mathbf{B}_p^d = \int_0^{\Delta\tau_s} e^{\mathbf{A}_p \tau} \mathbf{B}_p d\tau$, $\mathbf{E}_p^d = \int_0^{\Delta\tau_s} e^{\mathbf{A}_p \tau} \mathbf{E}_p d\tau$, $\mathbf{C}_p^d = \mathbf{C}_p$, $\mathbf{D}_p^d = \mathbf{D}_p$.

3.2. Reactive Power Control Loop

3.2.1. Modeling

For full-scale converter WTs, the grid side converter can be controlled to provide reactive power support for the grid. A standard control scheme for voltage source converter, consisting of the cascaded control structure (inner loop and outer loop), is implemented in this study. For the active power loop, the dc voltage is controlled at the nominal value. For the q-axis control loop, the reactive power control mode is adopted as illustrated in Fig. 4.

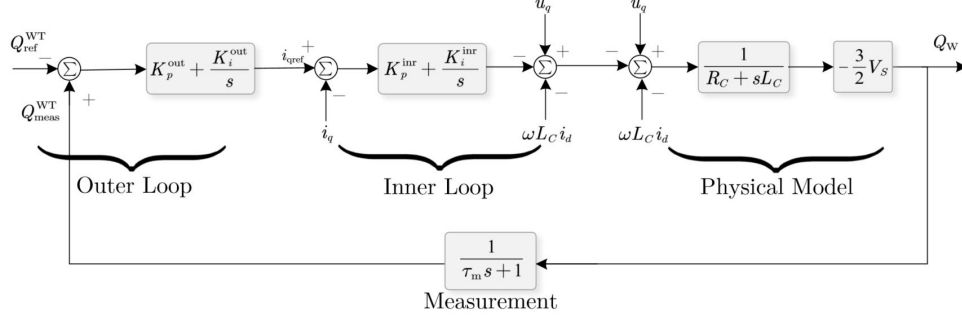


Figure 4: Structure of the reactive power control loop.

By introducing the feedforward terms $\omega L_C i_d$ and $\omega L_C i_q$, the P -control loop and Q -control loop are decoupled. And by selecting,

$$K_p^{inr} = \frac{L_C}{\tau_{inr}}, \quad K_i^{inr} = \frac{R_C}{\tau_{inr}} \quad (5)$$

the whole system can be simplified as Fig. 5.

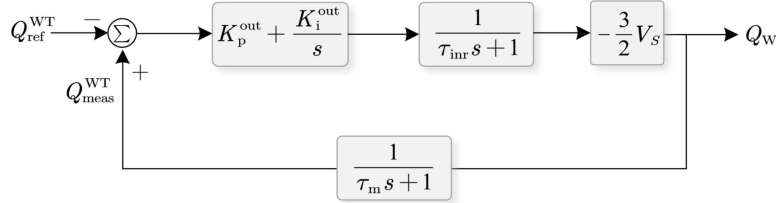


Figure 5: Simplified equivalent control loop.

Accordingly, the basic formulation of the reactive power control can be expressed as,

$$\begin{cases} i_q^* = K_p^{out} (Q_{meas}^{WT} - Q_{ref}^{WT}) + K_i^{out} \frac{Q_{meas}^{WT} - Q_{ref}^{WT}}{s} \\ \dot{i}_q = -\frac{1}{\tau_{inr}} i_q + \frac{1}{\tau_{inr}} i_q^* \\ Q_W = -\frac{3}{2} V_S i_q \\ \dot{Q}_{meas}^{WT} = -\frac{1}{\tau_m} Q_{meas}^{WT} + \frac{1}{\tau_m} Q_W \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where the corresponding variables and parameters are defined in the Nomenclature and Appendix.

3.2.2. Incremental State-Space Model

Introduce an auxiliary state variable Q_{int}^{WT} defined as,

$$Q_{int}^{WT} := \frac{Q_{meas}^{WT} - Q_{ref}^{WT}}{s}. \quad (7)$$

And define $\Delta x_q := [\Delta Q_W, \Delta Q_{meas}^{WT}, \Delta Q_{int}^{WT}]^T$ is the state variable vector, $\Delta y_q := [\Delta Q_W]^T$ is the output variable, and $\Delta u_q := [\Delta Q_{ref}^{WT}]^T$ is the control input. Accordingly, the linearized incremental state-space model regarding the reactive power loop can be expressed as,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \dot{x}_q &= \mathbf{A}_q \Delta x_q + \mathbf{B}_q \Delta u_q \\ \Delta y_q &= \mathbf{C}_q \Delta x_q \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

with

$$\mathbf{A}_q = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\tau_{\text{inr}}} & -\frac{3}{2\tau_{\text{inr}}}V_{\text{S0}}K_{\text{p}}^{\text{out}} & -\frac{3}{2\tau_{\text{inr}}}V_{\text{S0}}K_{\text{i}}^{\text{out}} \\ \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{m}}} & -\frac{1}{\tau_{\text{m}}} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_q = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{2\tau_{\text{inr}}}V_{\text{S0}}K_{\text{p}}^{\text{out}} \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{C}_q = [1 \ 0 \ 0]. \quad (10)$$

Similarly, the discrete model can be obtained from the continuous state-space model (8) with the sampling time $\Delta\tau_s$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x_q(k+1) &= \mathbf{A}_q^{\text{d}} \Delta x_q(k) + \mathbf{B}_q^{\text{d}} \Delta u_q(k) \\ \Delta y_q(k) &= \mathbf{C}_q^{\text{d}} \Delta x_q(k) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where

$$\mathbf{A}_q^{\text{d}} = e^{\mathbf{A}_q \Delta\tau_s}, \mathbf{B}_q^{\text{d}} = \int_0^{\Delta\tau_s} e^{\mathbf{A}_q \tau} \mathbf{B}_q d\tau, \mathbf{C}_q^{\text{d}} = \mathbf{C}_q.$$

4. D-MPC Based Power Control Design

The proposed power control scheme includes three parts: 1) distributed synchronization (estimation) of the global reference information $P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}}$ and V_{POC} ; 2) distributed estimation of available power of the wind farm $P_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WF}}$; and 3) MPC formulation of the voltage control problem.

4.1. Synchronization of Global Reference Information

As mentioned in Section 2, the distributed control scheme is developed based on the sparse and connected communication network. The WT can only exchange information with its neighbors and only a few WTs have directly access to the global information. Thus, the global information cannot be broadcast to each WT in centralized manner. In this context, for $P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}}$ and V_{POC} , a distributed finite-time observer can be adopted to estimate them in a distributed way [25], which is,

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\hat{P}}_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}(i)}(t) &= \text{sig} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \left(\hat{P}_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}(j)}(t) - \hat{P}_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}(i)}(t) \right) + g_i \left(P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}}(t) - \hat{P}_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}(i)}(t) \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \dot{\hat{V}}_{\text{POC}}^{(i)}(t) &= \text{sig} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \left(\hat{V}_{\text{POC}}^{(j)}(t) - \hat{V}_{\text{POC}}^{(i)}(t) \right) + g_i \left(V_{\text{POC}}(t) - \hat{V}_{\text{POC}}^{(i)}(t) \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

According to the theorem in [25], if the communication network is connected, the estimated value $\hat{P}_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}(i)}$ and $\hat{V}_{\text{POC}}^{(i)}$ will synchronize to the global references $P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}}$ and V_{POC} in a finite time, respectively.

4.2. Distributed Estimation of Total Available Power of the Wind Farm

Similarly, to estimate $P_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WF}}$ in a distributed way, the average-consensus protocol can achieve it with the sparse and connected communication network. Thus, the distributed estimator can be designed as [26],

$$\dot{\hat{P}}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(i)}(t) = -\epsilon \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} \left(\hat{P}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(i)}(t) - \hat{P}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(j)}(t) \right) \quad (12)$$

where $\epsilon > 0$ is the constant gain. According to the theorem in [26], if the communication network is connected, the estimated values will converge to a stable equilibrium that is average of the initial values provided by each WT. The estimation process is executed every several seconds. At the beginning of the process, $\hat{P}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(i)}$ is initialized with the current available power of WT- i . Similarly, if the communication network is connected, $\hat{P}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(i)}$ will definitely converge to $P_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WF}}/N$ in a finite time. Accordingly, each WT can estimate $P_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WF}}$ by,

$$\hat{P}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WF}} = N \cdot \hat{P}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(i)}. \quad (13)$$

4.3. MPC Formulation

In the MPC, the control input is obtained by solving a discrete-time optimal control problem over a given horizon. An optimal control input sequence is produced and only the first control in the sequence is applied. In this paper, the non-cooperative (communication-based) D-MPC is adopted, in which each subsystem (WT) controller anticipates the impact of system interactions only locally and the whole system performance converges to the Nash equilibrium.

For each WT, the control inputs are the active and reactive power commands from the DCPC. In the active power control part, the controller minimizes the fatigue loads represented by fluctuations of low-speed shaft torque ΔT_s and thrust force ΔF_t while tracking the power reference $P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}}$. In the reactive power part, the terminal voltage of the WT and voltage at POC are regulated around 1.0 p.u., which also results in the system active power loss minimization. Besides, the reactive power sharing is also considered. Suppose the prediction and control horizon (steps) are H_p ($N_p = H_p/T_c$) and H_c ($N_c = H_c/T_c$), respectively. As known, $N_p \geq N_c$. From the computational viewpoint, they should be equal, i.e., $N_p = N_c$, unless the controller is required to consider changes beyond the control horizon.

4.3.1. Active Power Control

Supposing k is the current operating point (step), the predictive value and control input of WT- i ($i \in [1, \dots, N]$) are defined by,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(i)}(k+l|k) &= \Delta u_p^{(i)}(k+l|k), \\ \Delta T_s^{(i)}(k+l|k) &= S_{T_s} \cdot \Delta y_p^{(i)}(k+l|k), S_{T_s} = [1, 0], \\ \Delta F_t^{(i)}(k+l|k) &= S_{F_t} \cdot \Delta y_p^{(i)}(k+l|k), S_{F_t} = [0, 1],\end{aligned}$$

The MPC formulation of WT- i at step k can be formulated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\min_{\Delta u_p^{(i)}(k|k), \dots, \Delta u_p^{(i)}(k+N_p-1|k)} & \sum_{l=1}^{N_p} W_P \left(P_{g0}^{(i)} + \Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(i)}(k+l|k) - \frac{\hat{P}_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}(i)}}{N \cdot \hat{P}_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(i)}} \right)^2 \\ & + \sum_{l=1}^{N_p} W_T \left(\Delta T_s^{(i)}(k+l|k) \right)^2 + \sum_{l=1}^{N_p} W_F \left(\Delta F_t^{(i)}(k+l|k) \right)^2\end{aligned}\quad (14)$$

subject to

$$\Delta x_p^{(i)}(k+l+1|k) = \mathbf{A}_p^{\text{d}(i)} \Delta x_p(k+l|k) + \mathbf{B}_p^{\text{d}(i)} \Delta u_p(k+l|k) + \mathbf{E}_p^{\text{d}(i)}(k+l|k), \quad (15)$$

$$\Delta y_p^{(i)}(k+l|k) = \mathbf{C}_p^{\text{d}(i)} \Delta x_p(k+l|k) + \mathbf{D}_p^{\text{d}(i)} \Delta u_p(k+l-1|k), \quad (16)$$

$$0 \leq P_{g0}^{(i)} + \Delta u_p^{(i)}(k+l|k) \leq P_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(i)}, \quad (17)$$

where the first term in the cost function is used as the soft constraint of the power reference tracking. The second term and third term are used to penalize the fatigue loads of the WT. W_P , W_T , and W_F are the weighting factors which penalize for power tracking, shaft torque and thrust force, respectively.

4.3.2. Reactive Power Control

By defining the predicted power output vectors, sensitivity vector and control input vector,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta Y_p^{(i)}(k+l|k) &= [a_{i1} \Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(1)}(k+l|k-1), \dots, a_{i(i-1)} \Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(i-1)}(k+l|k-1), \\ & \quad \Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(i)}(k+l|k), a_{i(i+1)} \Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(i+1)}(k+l|k-1), \dots, a_{iN} \Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(N)}(k+l|k-1)]^T, \\ \Delta Y_q^{(i)}(k+l|k) &= [a_{i1} \Delta y_q^{(1)}(k+l|k-1), \dots, a_{i(i-1)} \Delta y_q^{(i-1)}(k+l|k-1), \\ & \quad \Delta y_q^{(i)}(k+l|k), a_{i(i+1)} \Delta y_q^{(i+1)}(k+l|k-1), \dots, a_{iN} \Delta y_q^{(N)}(k+l|k-1)]^T, \\ S_{V_{\text{POC}}}^{P(i)} &= \left[\frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial P_{W_1}}, \dots, \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial P_{W_{i-1}}}, \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial P_{W_i}}, \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial P_{W_{i+1}}}, \dots, \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial P_{W_N}} \right], \\ S_{V_{\text{POC}}}^{Q(i)} &= \left[\frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial Q_{W_1}}, \dots, \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial Q_{W_{i-1}}}, \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial Q_W}, \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial Q_{W_{i+1}}}, \dots, \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial Q_{W_N}} \right],\end{aligned}$$

$$S_{V_W}^{P(i)} = [\frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{P_{W_1}}, \dots, \frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{P_{W_{i-1}}}, \frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{P_{W_i}}, \frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{P_{W_{i+1}}}, \dots, \frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{P_{W_N}}],$$

$$S_{V_W}^{Q(i)} = [\frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{Q_{W_1}}, \dots, \frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{Q_{W_{i-1}}}, \frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{Q_{W_i}}, \frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{Q_{W_{i+1}}}, \dots, \frac{\partial V_{W_i}}{Q_{W_N}}].$$

where the variables $\Delta P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(j)}(k+l|k-1)$, $\Delta y_q^{(j)}(k+l|k-1)$ are the predicted information at step $k+l$ computed at step $k-1$, which are exchanged from other neighboring WTs. If WT- i and WT- j have direct communication link which means they can exchange the above information, $a_{ij} = 1$, otherwise $a_{ij} = 0$. Thus, the predicted voltages based on the first-order Taylor approximation can be expressed by,

$$\Delta V_{\text{POC}}^{(i)}(k+l|k) = S_{V_{\text{POC}}}^{P(i)} \cdot \Delta Y_p^{(i)} + S_{V_{\text{POC}}}^{Q(i)} \cdot \Delta Y_q^{(i)}(k+l|k),$$

$$\Delta V_{W_i}(k+l|k) = S_{V_W}^{P(i)} \cdot \Delta Y_p^{(i)} + S_{V_W}^{Q(i)} \cdot \Delta Y_q^{(i)}(k+l|k).$$

Then, the optimal reactive power control problem can be formulated as,

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\Delta u_q^{(i)}(k|k), \dots, \Delta u_q^{(i)}(k+N_p-1|k)} & \sum_{l=1}^{N_p} W_{\text{POC}} \left(\Delta V_{\text{POC}}^{(i)}(k+l|k) + \varepsilon \cdot (\hat{V}_{\text{POC}}^{(i)} - V_{\text{ref}}) \right)^2 \\ & + \sum_{l=1}^{N_p} W_W \left(\Delta V_{W_i}(k+l|k) + \varepsilon \cdot (V_{W_i}^0 - V_{\text{ref}}) \right)^2 \\ & + \sum_{l=1}^{N_p} \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} W_Q \left(\frac{\Delta y_q^{(i)}(k+l|k) + Q_{W_i0}}{\bar{Q}_{W,i}} - \frac{Q_{W_j}(k+l|k-1)}{\bar{Q}_{W,j}} \right)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

subject to

$$\Delta x_q^{(i)}(k+l+1|k) = \mathbf{A}_q^{d(i)} \Delta x_q^{(i)}(k+l|k) + \mathbf{B}_q^{d(i)} \Delta u_q^{(i)}(k+l|k), \quad (19)$$

$$\Delta y_q^{(i)}(k+l|k) = \mathbf{C}_q^{(i)} \Delta x_q^{(i)}(k+l|k), \quad (20)$$

$$\underline{Q}_{W_i}(k+l|k) \leq Q_{W_i0} + \Delta y_q^{(i)}(k+l|k) \leq \bar{Q}_{W_i}(k+l|k). \quad (21)$$

The first term and second term in the cost function are used to penalize the voltage deviations. The third term is used to penalize the differences of reactive power sharing among WTs. The ratio $Q_{W_j}(k+l|k-1)/\bar{Q}_{W,j}$ is the predicted reactive power utilization of WT- j at step $k+l$ computed at step $k-1$, which is exchanged from the WT- j . W_{POC} , W_W and W_Q are the weighting factors for the voltage at the POC, WT terminal voltage and reactive power sharing, respectively. $\varepsilon > 0$ denotes the constant gain which can be used to adjust the control performances. The reactive power limits of a WT depend on the terminal voltage and active power output. As shown in Fig. 6, the relationship can be expressed as the lookup table and the values of \underline{Q}_W and \bar{Q}_W can be obtained based on the interpolation.

The presented MPC problems can be transformed into a standard Quadratic Programming (QP) problem and efficiently solved by commercial QP solvers in milliseconds.

5. Case Study

In this section, a wind farm with ten 5 MW WTs with the communication network as illustrated in Fig. 7 is used to validate the proposed control scheme. The WTs are connected by 33 kV collector cables and the wind farm is connected to the external grid through a 110 kV/33 kV transformer. The wind farm is connected to the IEEE-14 bus test system at Bus 05 (see Fig. 8). WT-01 is selected as the leader of all WTs which has direct access to the global reference information. The proposed control scheme along with the solution method is implemented in the MATLAB/SIMULINK on a PC with an Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-6700HQ CPU @2.60GHz processor and 8 GB RAM, running Windows 10. The distributed controller was implemented using a MATLAB-function block with a packaging triggered subsystem. The wind condition modeling of the wind farm considering the wake effects and turbulences was generated using the SimWindFarm Toolbox [24]. More detailed WT parameters can be found in the Appendix.

The available power estimation is executed every 10 s and the sensitivity coefficients are updated every 120 s. The control period of the D-MPC is set as 1 s and $N_p = N_c = 5$. The simulation results of the proposed distributed control

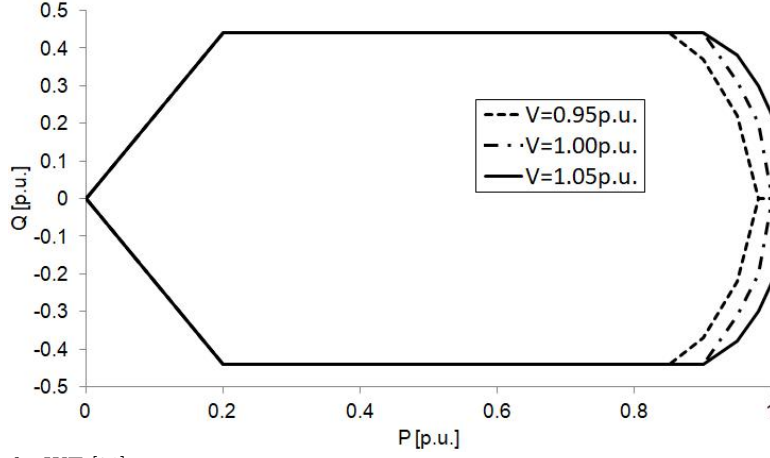


Figure 6: Reactive power limit of a WT [21].

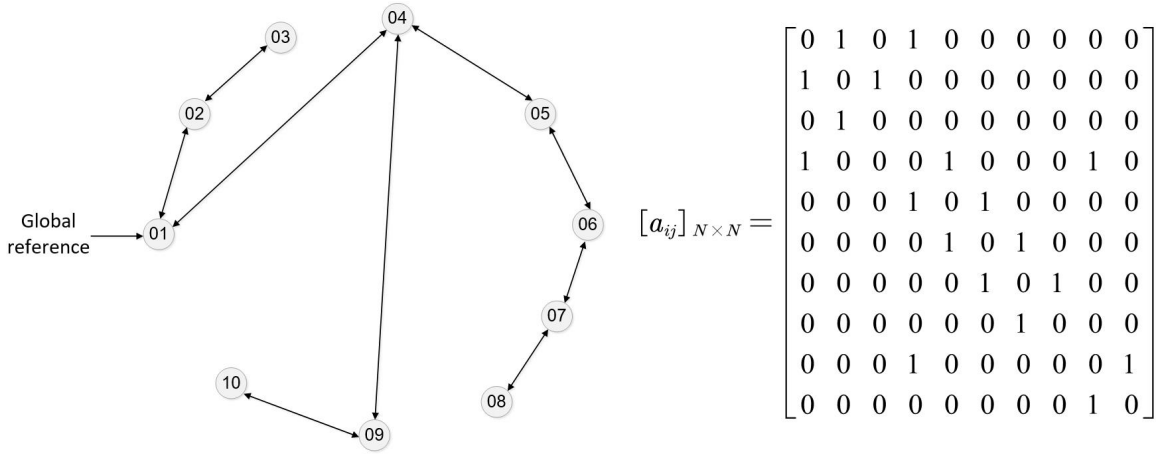


Figure 7: Communication network topology.

scheme are compared with the conventional centralized control. For the active power control, the proportional dispatch strategy is used according to the available power is given as,

$$P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WT}(i)} = \frac{P_{\text{ref}}^{\text{WF}} * P_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WT}(i)}}{P_{\text{avi}}^{\text{WF}}} \quad (22)$$

For reactive power control, the conventional centralized optimal voltage control [12] is adopted, which solves the following optimization problem at each control step,

$$\min_{Q_{W_1}, \dots, Q_{W_N}} W_{\text{POC}} (V_{\text{POC}} - V_{\text{ref}})^2 + \sum_i W_W (V_{W_i} - V_{\text{ref}})^2 + W_Q \sum_{i,j} \left(\frac{Q_{W_i}}{\bar{Q}_{W_i}} - \frac{Q_{W_j}}{\bar{Q}_{W_j}} \right)^2$$

subject to

$$\underline{Q}_W \leq Q_W \leq \bar{Q}_W \quad (23)$$

$$V_{\text{POC}} = V_{\text{POC}0} + \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial Q_{W_1}} \Delta Q_{W_1} + \dots + \frac{\partial V_{\text{POC}}}{\partial Q_{W_N}} \Delta Q_{W_N}, \quad (24)$$

$$V_W = V_{W0} + \frac{\partial V_W}{\partial Q_{W_1}} \Delta Q_{W_1} + \dots + \frac{\partial V_W}{\partial Q_{W_N}} \Delta Q_{W_N}. \quad (25)$$

The sampling time of the centralized controller is designed as 1 s.

5.1. Performance of the Estimator and Observer

The total simulation time is 600 s. The power reference and available power of the wind farm are shown in Fig. 9. The power demand changes from 20 MW to 30 MW at $t = 200$ s and from 30 MW to 25 MW at $t = 470$ s.

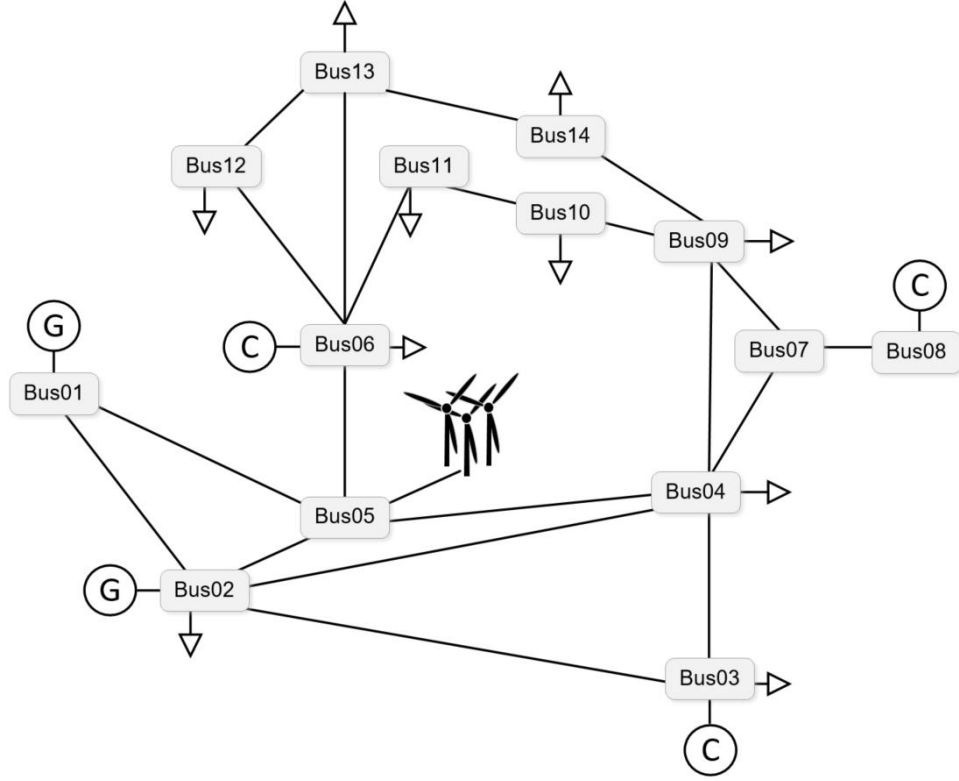


Figure 8: IEEE-14 bus system with the wind farm.

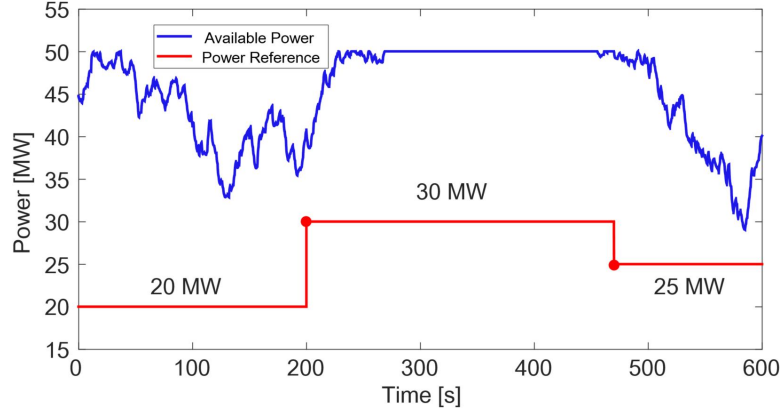


Figure 9: Power reference and available power of the wind farm.

The performances of the estimator for the total available power of the wind farm and the observer for wind farm power reference are presented in this subsection. The estimated available power of the wind farm is shown in Fig. 10. It can be observed that all the estimators can fast converge to the actual value within about 1 s after every updated point (every 10 s). The synchronization of the wind farm power reference is shown in Fig. 11. As can be seen, the distributed observers can fast track the variations of the power reference, implying the global information can be effectively synchronized in the wind farm.

5.2. Power Tracking and Fatigue Loads Reduction

5.2.1. Power Tracking

To avoid sharp power variations of WTs, the (estimated) wind farm power reference is sent to the distributed controller (after the observer) or central controller through a first-order low-pass filter with the time constant of 10 s. The power reference tracking performance of the proposed scheme is illustrated in Fig. 12. It can be seen that the centralized

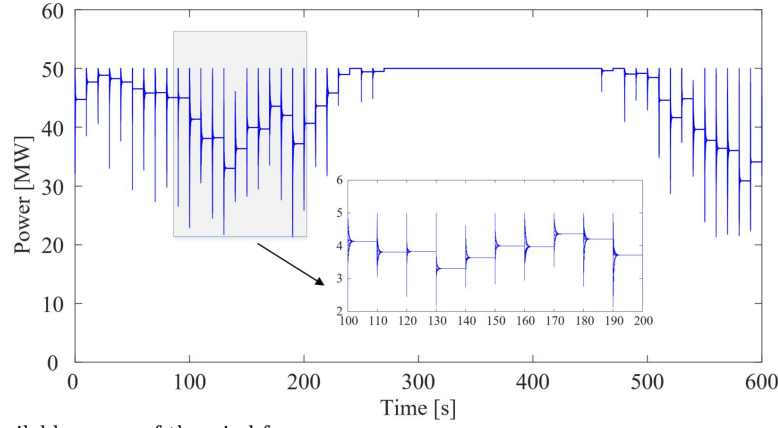


Figure 10: Estimation of the available power of the wind farm.

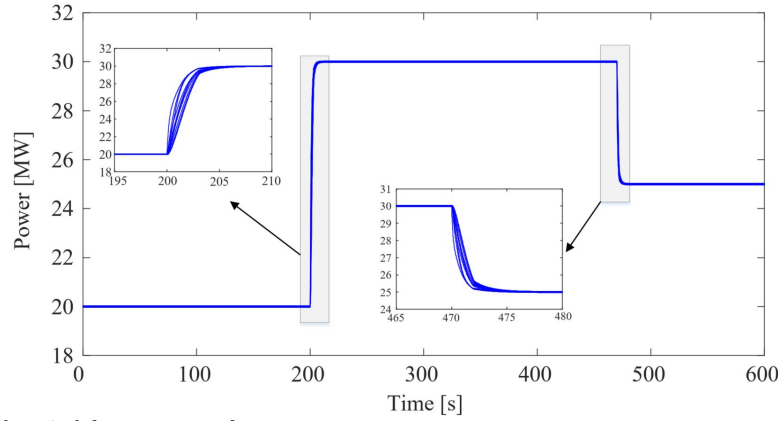


Figure 11: Synchronization of the wind farm power reference.

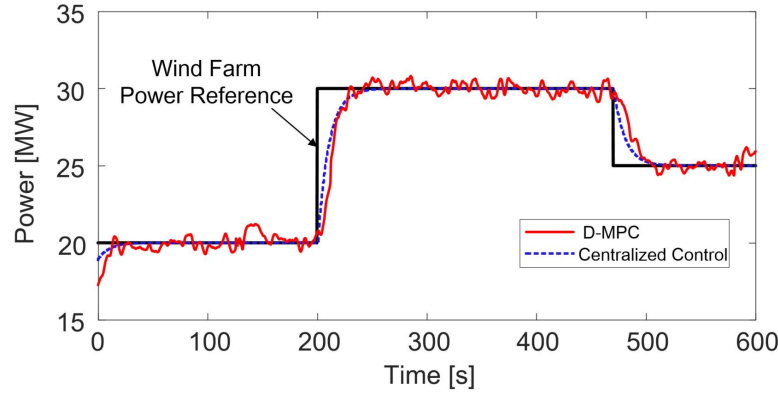


Figure 12: Power tracking performance.

controller can precisely track the power reference of the wind farm. The D-MPC can also regulate the output power within small deviations, implying the power tracking performance of the proposed scheme is acceptable.

5.2.2. Fatigue Loads Reduction

WT-04 is used as an example to validate the fatigue loads reduction performance. The shaft torque and thrust force of WT-04 are shown in Fig. 13 and Fig. 14, respectively. Compared with the centralized control, the variations of T_s and F_t are reduced with D-MPC, implying the less fatigue loads experienced by WTs. The standard deviations T_s and F_t for all WTs are listed in Table 1. For T_s , the standard deviations are reduced by 5%–8% and for F_t , they are 27%–59%.

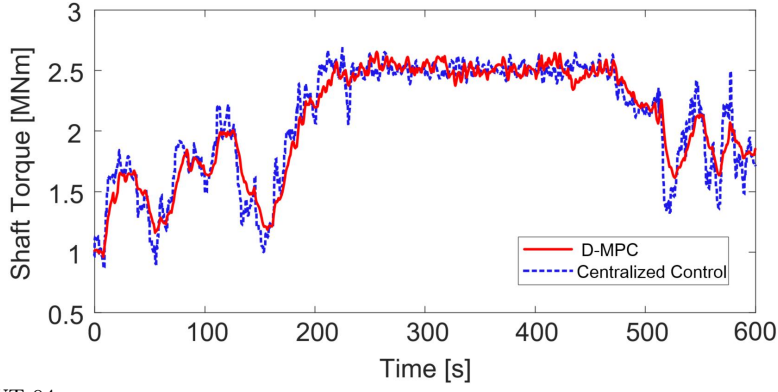


Figure 13: Shaft torque T_s of WT-04.

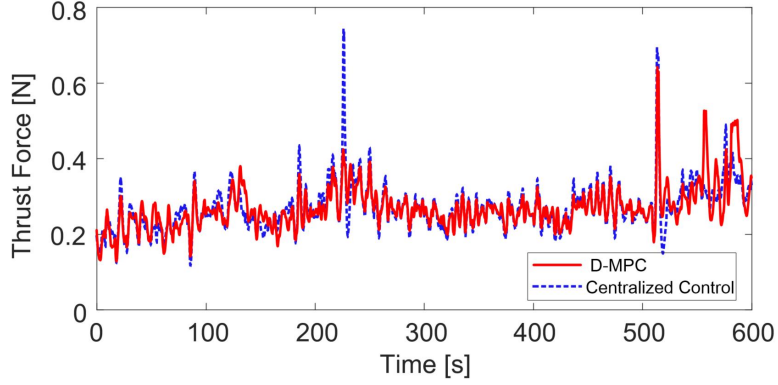


Figure 14: Thrust force F_t of WT-04.

Table 1

Standard deviations of shaft torque $\sigma(T_s)$ and thrust force $\sigma(F_t)$

Wind Turbine	$\sigma(T_s)$ [MNm]		$\sigma(F_t)$ [MN]	
	D-MPC	Centralized Control	D-MPC	Centralized Control
WT-01	0.4401(8.0%)	0.4781	0.0351(37.8%)	0.0565
WT-02	0.4050(6.1%)	0.4313	0.0383(36.1%)	0.0600
WT-03	0.4523(5.9%)	0.4805	0.0348(38.7%)	0.0568
WT-04	0.4521(3.3%)	0.4674	0.0358(34.5%)	0.0546
WT-05	0.5074(5.9%)	0.4793	0.0308(58.5%)	0.0741
WT-06	0.4046(5.7%)	0.4290	0.0329(27.3%)	0.0453
WT-07	0.3885(6.3%)	0.4144	0.0386(31.5%)	0.0564
WT-08	0.4197(5.9%)	0.4461	0.0378(26.6%)	0.0515
WT-09	0.3647(4.8%)	0.3830	0.0331(35.7%)	0.0515
WT-10	0.4613(5.3%)	0.4871	0.0337(42.1%)	0.0582

5.3. Voltage Regulation

In this subsection, the voltage control performance is evaluated. According to experimental studies in [27], the minimal information update interval in IEEE 802.11 is in the order of 10 ms. For the commonly used fiber optical, the time delay might be in the range of several milliseconds (less than 1.5 ms for 40 km) [28]. They both can be used for distributed control. Thus, to further illustrate the potential benefits of D-MPC for voltage control, the sampling time of the D-MPC is reduced to 0.2 s. The voltage reference V_{ref} is set as 1.0 p.u.. A reactive power load is suddenly added to Bus06 at $t = 120$ s and removed at $t = 420$ s. Fig. 15 shows the voltage at the POC. WT-04 (closest bus along the feeder) and WT-08 (furthest bus along the feeder) are selected as the representative WTs. Their terminal voltages are shown in Figs. 16 and 17.

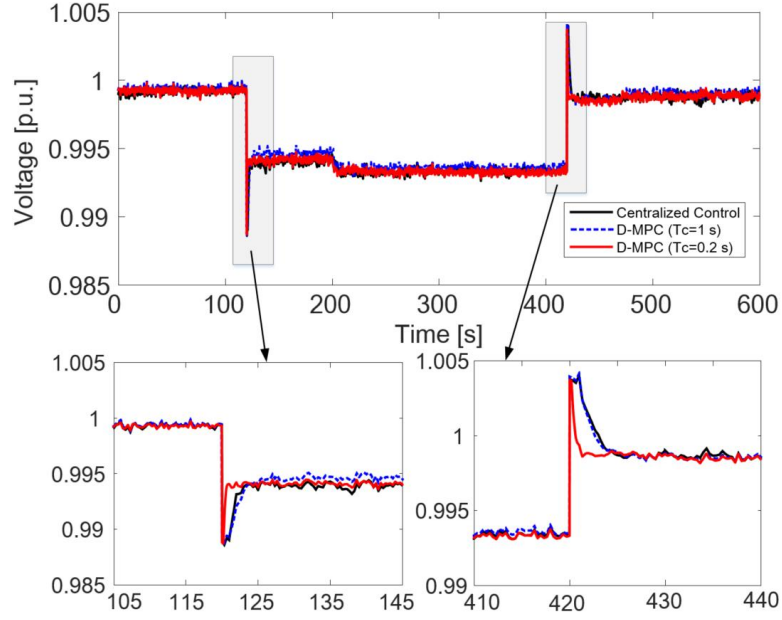


Figure 15: Voltage at POC.

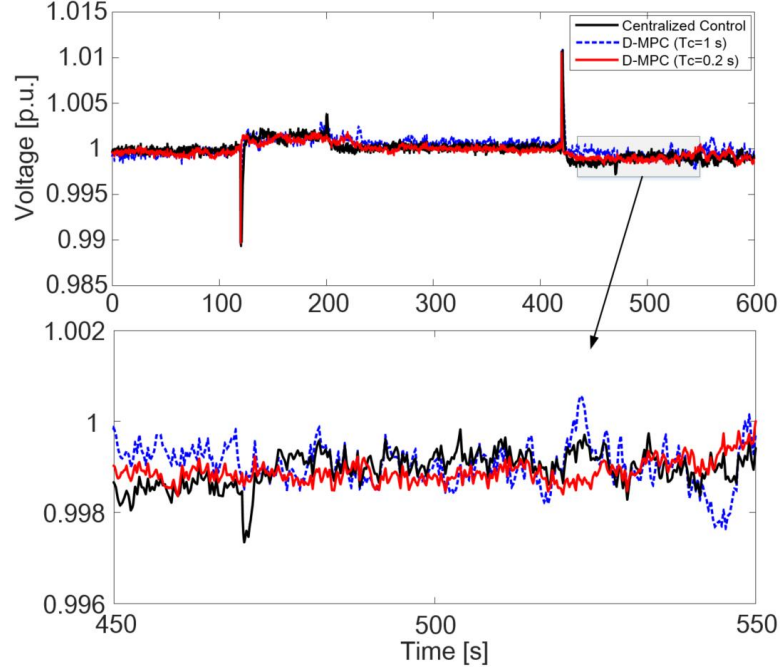


Figure 16: Terminal voltage of WT-04.

As shown in Fig. 15, both the centralized control and D-MPC can efficiently regulate the V_{POC} within the feasible range of $0.99 \sim 1.01$ p.u., implying the good voltage regulation performance. After the disturbances at $t = 120$ s, V_{POC} suddenly falls to 0.99 p.u. and then it recovers to 0.995 p.u. due to the reactive power support of WTs. After the disturbance at $t = 420$ s, V_{POC} suddenly exceeds 1.004 p.u., and then it recovers close to 1.0 p.u.. And as can be seen, the overall performances of the D-MPC and the centralized control, which have the same control period 1 s, are similar. However, if the control period of the D-MPC can be shortened to 0.2 s, the D-MPC can significantly improve the voltage recovery performance, which shows the advantages of the D-MPC. Similarly, as can be seen from Figs. 16 and 17, the terminal voltages of WTs, including the furthest WT along the feeder, i.e. WT-08, can be effectively controlled around 1.0 p.u.. Compared with the centralized control, the D-MPC with shorter control period shows better control performance.

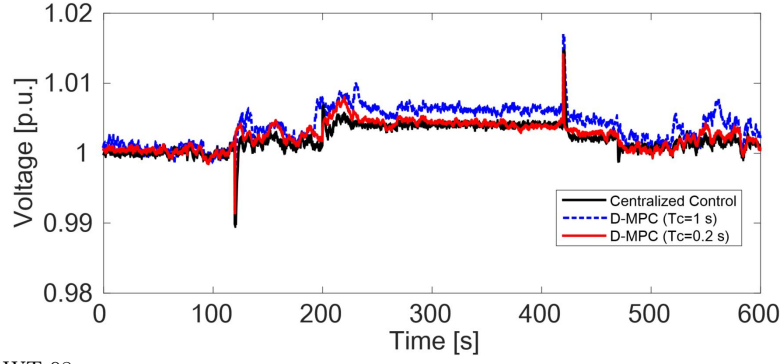


Figure 17: Terminal voltage of WT-08.

5.4. Comparison of the Coordinated and Separated Control

In this subsection, the comparison of the coordinated (proposed in this paper) and the conventional separated active power and reactive control of a wind farm is presented. The simulation time is 100 s. It can be seen from Figs. 18 and 19 that both the coordinated D-MPC and separated D-MPC can effectively regulate the voltage within the feasible range. Compared with the separated D-MPC, the coordinated D-MPC can better control the voltage with smaller deviations and fluctuations, which further demonstrates the advantages of the proposed control scheme.

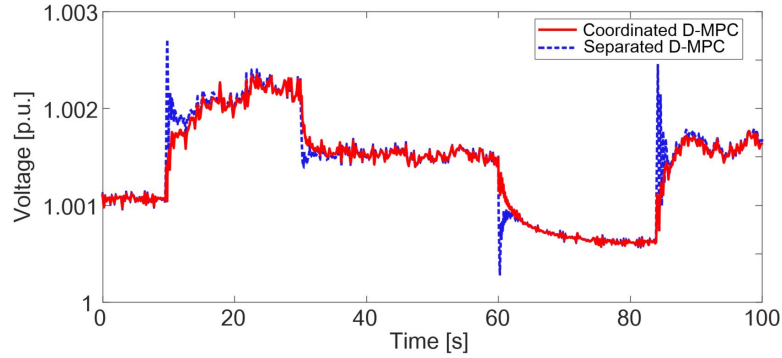


Figure 18: Terminal voltage of WT-04 with the coordinated D-MPC and separated D-MPC.

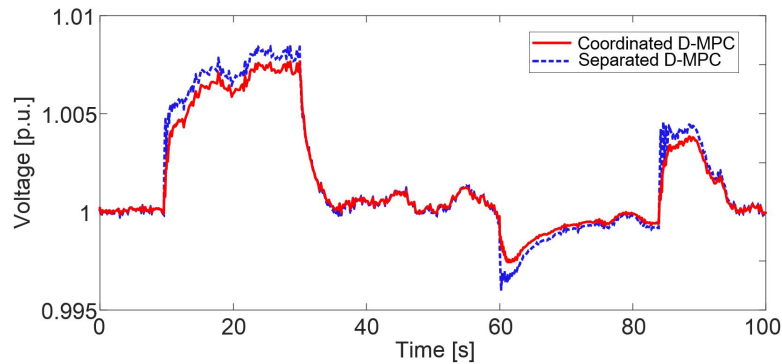


Figure 19: Terminal voltage of WT-08 with the coordinated D-MPC and separated D-MPC.

6. Conclusion

This paper proposes a distributed coordinated active and reactive power control scheme for wind farms based on the MPC, in which the distributed reactive/voltage control of wind farms is achieved and coordinated with the active power control. The simulation results validate that the proposed control scheme can effectively reduce the fatigue loads experienced by WTs while tracking the wind farm power reference. And it can regulate the voltages within the feasible

range. By shortening the control period, the control performance of the D-MPC can be significantly improved and better than the centralized control. Compared with the separated active and reactive power control, the proposed coordinated control can better regulate the voltages with smaller fluctuations and deviations by taking into account the impact of active power variations on voltages. Besides, since the distributed control scheme is center-free and only requires sparse communication network, it could be helpful to significantly reduce the costs for large-scale wind farms, implying better scalability and economic performances.

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Appendix

The parameters of WTs and the wind farm are presented in the Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2

Parameters of wind farm collector system.

Unit	Parameters
33kV Cable	$R = 0.0975\Omega/\text{km}$, $L = 0.38\text{mH}/\text{km}$, $C = 0.24\mu\text{F}/\text{km}$
33kV/110kV Transformer	$S_N = 50\text{MVA}$, $R = 0.002 \text{ p.u.}$, $X = 0.12 \text{ p.u.}$

Table 3

Parameters of a 5-MW wind turbine model.

Symbol	Description	Value
η	Gearbox ratio	97
R	Rotor radius [m]	63
J_r	Rotor inertia [$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2$]	$3.544\cdot 10^7$
J_g	Generator inertia [$\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2$]	534.116
ω_g^{rated}	Rated generator speed [rad/s]	122.9096
μ	Generator efficiency	0.944
ρ	Air density	1.2231
K_p^θ	Proportional gain of the pitch control	0.1965
K_i^θ	Integral gain of the pitch control	0.0842
K_0	Gain scheduling coefficient	1
K_1	Gain scheduling coefficient	1.9412
K_p^{out}	Proportional gain of the converter control	25
K_i^{out}	Integral gain of the converter control	5000
τ_m	time constant of low-pass filter [ms]	10
τ_{inr}	time constant of low-pass filter [ms]	5

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